

News briefs

Memorial Day ceremony

The base Memorial Day ceremony takes place May 24 at 2 p.m. at the Airman's Memorial by the main gate.

The dress is uniform of the day and business casual for civilians.

In case of inclement weather, the alternate location will be the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel.

People interested in singing the national anthem or taking part in the military formation should call 2nd Lt. Margaret Van Curler at 452-6209.

Flowers available

Housing residents can pick up flowers, soil and flower boxes at one of the self-help stores.

The Spangdahlem Air Base Self-Help Store distributes flowers weekdays from 7 a.m. to noon and 1-6 p.m.

The Bitburg Annex Self-Help Store distributes flowers weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

However, the hours are different for both stores Monday. Flowers will be distributed from 8 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call the Bitburg Annex Self-Help Store at 452-9433 or the Spangdahlem AB Self-Help Store at 452-6242.

School board meeting

The Eifel School Board holds an open meeting Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Middle School multi-purpose room. Topics include upcoming elections and mentorship programs.

Balcony/yard of the month

The balcony and yard of the month program begins in June and continues through September. People living in Spangdahlem Air Base, Bitburg Annex and government-leased housing areas are included in this competition.

Plaques and certificates will be presented, as well as prizes from various organizations on base.

For more information, call the housing office at 452-6560 or 452-6036.

Medical group training

The 52nd Medical Group closes June 6 for medical readiness training. Services normally offered on family days, holidays and weekends will still be available. For urgent care, the Bitburg Annex Emergency Room is open.

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Eifel Times

Vol. 36, Issue 17

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

May 17, 2002



Staff Sgt. Cindy York

Members of the 606th Air Control Squadron use the litter carry method to transport a "wounded" airman during the squadron's recent deployment to Kemel, Germany. The exercise, Silent Liberty, tested the unit's ability to deploy to two separate sites -- a new concept for air control squadrons.

606th ACS practices new concept

Exercise Silent Liberty tests squadron's ability to deploy two separate sites

By Staff Sgt. Cindy York
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

As times change, so too does the Air Force and the way it handles its business. The 606th Air Control Squadron recently practiced some of the changes that affect what they do for a living.

Exercise Silent Liberty, held in Kemel, Germany, about 140 miles from Spangdahlem Air Base, tested the squadron's ability to deploy one unit to two separate sites. The test went well, according to Lt. Col. James Dew, 606th ACS commander.

"Deploying to a site away from Spangdahlem is great. We're finding issues that you see in the field that just don't pop up in the office," he said.

One of those issues is the manning limitations. With the new

concept, more people are required at two sites. While the sites were practically side by side at Kemel, they would actually be about 60 miles apart if the squadron was deployed somewhere, said Tech. Sgt. Rudy DeLeon, 606th ACS ground radio technician.

The "deployed radar" package actually sets up closer to the threat, while the integrated command and control section sits back at a distance.

Under the new concept, when an air control squadron deploys, it can move to wherever there's a hilltop. For the exercise, the 606th deployed about 145 members, along with a variety of radar and other equipment.

At the heart of all their equipment was a TPS-75 Ground Controlled Radar. It gives squadron members the ability to monitor the skies up to 200 miles out to track enemy and friendly aircraft.

By being closer, the DR can get a better picture of the threat in the sky, then provide information to the ICC to process and act upon.

See 606th, Page 5

Various events mark Armed Forces Day at Bitburg Annex this weekend

Howie Long, former Oakland Raiders member, to make appearance

By Senior Master Sgt. Doug Roberts
Det. 9, Air Force News Agency

The Bitburg Annex hosts a variety of events today at 4 p.m. in recognition of Armed Forces Day, starting at 4 p.m. Friday.

The events include an endurance contest, a spring carnival, flea market and an appearance by a famous athlete.

AFN Eifel kicks things off with a broadcast of its afternoon radio show from the Bitburg Annex BX parking lot.

People can also find a mechanical bull, bungee-trampoline, sumo-wrestling pit and other games and attractions in the same parking lot.

Store Manager Ron Barfield said it's all AAFES' way of showing its appreciation for the Eifel community this Armed Forces Day weekend.

The Chrysler Endurance Competition begins at 5 p.m.. Six people will grab hold of a Jeep Liberty. Whoever holds the longest in 24 hours will win \$1,250.

Some of the other events planned for Friday are a "Jeep Girls" aerobics

demonstration and a street dance with "DJ Jake."

Barfield said he hopes both single airmen and families will come and enjoy the festivities with AAFES.

The activities move Saturday to the Bitburg Elementary School where the BES Parent Teachers Association hosts its annual

See Carnival, Page 4

Spang airmen receive Articles 15, jail time

Nonjudicial punishment, courts-martial sentences handed out during April

(Editor's note: Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not specify particular punishments for any offense. Commanders considering nonjudicial punishment consider the nature of the offense; the record of the service member; the needs for good order and discipline; and the effect of nonjudicial punishment of the service member and the service member's record.)

During April, 11 Spangdahlem airmen received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Also in April, five airmen were convicted in courts-martial, along with one so far in May.

■ A technical sergeant violated Article 92 by viewing pornographic images on a government computer. The commander imposed a fine of \$250 per month for two months and a reprimand.

■ A staff sergeant violated Article 92 by driving with a suspended license. The commander imposed 30 days restriction and a reprimand.

■ A staff sergeant violated Article 92 by misusing his government travel card. The commander imposed a reduction to senior airman.

■ A senior airman violated Article 86 by failing to report to work on time and Article 92 by misusing his government travel card. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman first class, a fine of \$100 per month for two months and a reprimand.

■ A senior airman violated Article 92 by misusing his government travel card. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman first class, a suspended fine of \$50 per month for two months, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ A senior airman violated Article 92 by misusing his government travel card. The commander imposed a reduction to airman first class, a suspended reduction to airman, a fine of \$150 per month for two months and 60 days restriction.

■ An airman first class violated Article 134 by showing up to work intoxicated. The commander imposed a reduction to airman and 12 days extra duty.

■ An airman first class violated Article 92 by misusing

his government travel card and Article 134 for drunk and disorderly. The commander imposed a fine of \$100, 15 days restriction, 15 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ An airman violated Article 86 by failing to report to work on time and Article 111 for driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to airman basic, a fine of \$100 per month for two months, 30 days restriction and 15 days extra duty.

■ An airman violated Article 134 by showing up to work intoxicated and Article 134 for drunk and disorderly. The commander imposed a suspended reduction, a suspended fine of \$100, 15 days restriction and 15 days extra duty.

■ An airman basic violated Article 92 by failing to comply with grooming standards and Article 92 for violating a no contact order. The commander imposed a fine of \$200, a suspended fine of \$200 and 45 days restriction.

Courts-martial

■ A military judge sentenced Senior Airman Christopher W. Morris to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for six months and reduction to E-1 for viewing child pornographic images on his personal computer, following a general court-martial April 12.

The airman from the 22nd Fighter Squadron was found guilty of one count of violating Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

He pleaded guilty to the charge. A military judge sentenced Airman 1st Class Ian M. Griffin-Bales to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 20 months, reduction to E-1 and forfeiture of all pay and allowances for drug-related offenses, following a general court-martial April 17.

The airman was found guilty of wrongful use, distribution and introduction onto Spangdahlem AB of marijuana, mushrooms and hashish on multiple occasions. He was also found guilty of wrongful use of methamphetamine and cocaine on multiple occasions.

The airman from the 22nd Fighter Squadron pleaded guilty to all nine specifications of Article 112a under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

■ A military judge sentenced Airman Trevor H. Turnbow to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 10 months, reduction to E-1 and forfeiture of all pay and allowances for drug-related offenses and theft, following a general court-martial April 19.

The airman was found guilty of wrongful use of mushrooms, hashish, marijuana and methamphetamine on multiple occasions. Additionally, he was found guilty of

wrongfully introducing mushrooms and hashish on multiple occasions onto Spangdahlem Air Base. He was also found guilty of stealing two display enlisted rank insignia from the Saber Club on Spangdahlem AB.

The 22nd FS airman pleaded guilty to all charges except wrongful use of methamphetamine. Though he pleaded guilty to introducing mushrooms and hashish onto Spangdahlem AB, he pleaded not guilty to doing so multiple times. The military judge found him guilty of all charges and specifications.

■ A military judge sentenced Airman 1st Class Jacob A. Ryan to confinement for 26 days, reduction to E-1 and forfeiture of \$650 for wrongful use of mushrooms on multiple occasions, following a summary court-martial April 25.

The airman from the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron was found guilty of the specification of Article 112a under the UCMJ. He pleaded guilty to the charge.

■ A military judge sentenced Airman 1st Class Timothy E. Dupont II to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for 75 days and reduction to the grade of E-1 for drug-related offenses, following a special court-martial April 30.

The airman was found guilty of using and distributing controlled substances. Specifically, he used and distributed oxycodone, commonly referred to as perocet, on multiple occasions. He also used marijuana on multiple occasions.

The airman from the 81st Fighter Squadron pleaded guilty to all three specifications of Article 112a under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

■ A military judge sentenced Airman 1st Class Brian E. Waterman Jr. to a bad conduct discharge, confinement for two months and reduction to E-1 for stealing government and personal property, following a special court-martial May 2.

The airman was found guilty of four specifications of larceny under Article 121 of the UCMJ. Specifically he was found guilty of stealing more than \$185 worth of property from fellow airmen in the dormitory, to include a TV/VCR combination, a Playstation game and clothing.

He was found guilty of a lesser charge of wrongful appropriation of a VCR from the government, along under Article 121.

Waterman was also found guilty of two specifications housebreaking under Article 130 of the UCMJ. Specifically, he was found guilty of unlawfully entering a dorm room with intent to commit a criminal offense.

Accidents

By John Keeler and Staff Sgt. Scott Kuczkowski
52nd Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis and 52nd SFS Investigations

Thirty-nine Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past two weeks, two of which were major.

The first major accident occurred near Schweich on L-145. An airman appeared to exit the autobahn going too fast, lost control at the end of the ramp and hit a curb. There were no injuries. One of his rims, tires and wheel assemblies were damaged. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The second major accident happened at the base perimeter fence behind Bitburg High School. A family member lost control of his vehicle, slammed into the perimeter fence

and hit a tree. There were no injuries, but the vehicle was totaled. The fence was damaged in three, 12-foot fence panels and poles.

The 37 minor accidents involved:

■ Five from backing.

■ 23 from inattentive driving.

■ Two parking lot related.

■ Four identified as speed too fast for conditions.

■ Two fleeing the scene.

■ One animal strike.

In addition, 58 citations were issued.

Recent thefts

There's been a recent rash of thefts of personal property in both the Speicher and Bitburg areas. The thefts have happened

within the town of Speicher, the Speicher government-leased housing and the town of Bitburg.

All of the thefts took place at night. The majority of items stolen were personal electronics taken from privately-owned vehicles. Typically, items stolen were portable CD players, cellular phones, CDs, and expensive car stereos. In most cases, the items were visible from outside the vehicle, and the thief broke a side window to get them.

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron reminds everyone of a few crime prevention tips to help prevent becoming a victim of a theft:

■ Don't leave electronic items in the

vehicle in plain view. Take them in the house or put them in the glove compartment. Most thieves will not give vehicles a second glance if they don't see anything they can grab quickly.

■ People who own expensive audio equipment should record the make, model and serial number. The Polizei can't return recovered merchandise without a serial number or other proof of ownership.

■ When possible, park vehicles in a well-lit area.

■ Always lock vehicles.

■ Report any suspicious people to security forces. Try to get a good physical description and location of the person. Call the law enforcement desk at 452-6666.

Spangdahlem honors base volunteers

By Jacqueline Abell
52nd Mission Support Squadron
Volunteer Resource Program

Base officials handed out six awards to local people from among 55 nominees during the annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony April 22.

Officials said competition was tough this year with more than 700 Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex registered volunteers. The winners and the awards are:

Volunteer Excellence Award

Bill Wrede consistently logged 40-60 hours of service monthly. He averaged another 20 hours

weekly helping Spangdahlem Elementary School teachers after school. Every child in school affectionately refers to him as "Mr. Bill." He was a guest reader, tutor and a mentor for grades kindergarten through third grade. Wrede also helped organize "dads only" meetings. Following the Sept. 11 act of aggression



Wrede

against the United States, he helped implement increased security measures in the school.

Unsung Hero Award

Ximena DeBroeck volunteered at the Bitburg Elementary School helping the Spanish and drama clubs. She's the

Parent Teacher Student Association vice-president and a member of the home-school community committee.

DeBroeck is also a Red Cross volunteer, serving as a recovery room nurse in the Bitburg Annex hospital.



DeBroeck

Diversity Award

Bernadette Young has given countless hours in the service of others. She devoted more than 100 hours to Bitburg Annex youth services,



Young

serving as a high school tutor, mentor and volunteer coordinator. Additionally, she's the Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club secretary and volunteered for American Women's Activities in Germany as an area representative and ways-and-means coordinator. Young also actively supports Boy Scouts Troop 161.

Youth Sports Activity Award

Ethan Lake volunteered more than 2,000 hours to youth programs. He coached high school and middle school wrestling teams, and Bitburg High School football and soccer teams. Additionally, he tutors students and chaperones dances and school trips. He funded and created a Web site for the local youth sports program, which provided public access to sports schedules, team information and sporting events photos. (No photo available.)

Youth Award

Julia White is a member of the Eifel school board. She devoted 30 hours as the high school representative, providing teen perspective to the board for decisions concerning welfare and improvements of base

schools. She volunteered 160 hours at the thrift shop and 192 hours on the Club Beyond Czech Republic service project.

Team Eifel Award

Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Airmen's Attic volunteers performed more than \$39,000 in labor by providing over 6,000 hours of dedicated service to active duty members, Defense Department and civilian employee customers. They made it possible for the Eifel military community to save thousands of dollars in clothing costs by sorting and making available to the community more than 14.5 tons of clothing, household items and small appliances donated to the Airmen's Attic.

In addition, they ensured more than 400 loan locker "loaner kits" were ready to pick up by people arriving or departing. They assisted family support center staff in preparing for events that reached more than 1,000 Team Eifel customers.



White

Thrift Savings Plan open season allows service members to sign up through July

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

The first open season for service members to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan was a huge success, said Defense officials.

The open season ran from Nov. 15 through Jan. 31, and more than 220,000 active and reserve component service members enrolled in the program. The next open season started Wednesday and continues through July 31.

"We thought maybe 10 percent of the active component would sign up in the first year—we had more than 10 percent sign up in just the first open season," said Army Lt. Col. Thomas Emswiler, executive director of the Armed Forces Tax Council. According to Bill Triplett, base family support center personal financial counselor, TSP has been well received here and continues to be of interest with the second open season.

Emswiler said officers and mid- to upper-level enlisted grades in particular signed up.

"I'd like to see more junior members consider using the program," he said. "When you're young, start putting away \$100 a month into the Thrift Savings Plan and it really can add up quite quickly."

He said he is particularly pleased with the response because TSP for military is a new program and the services are really just getting their education programs on line.

Service members interested in more information about the plan can visit the TSP Web site www.tsp.gov. The site features frequently asked questions, forms, savings calculators and records of fund earnings.

The TSP for program for the military works like this: Service members can contribute from 1 to 7 percent of basic pay and from 1 to 100 percent of any special, incentive or bonus pays. TSP has five funds with different investment goals and varying rates of return. Service members can place their

money in any or all the funds they wish. There is an \$11,000 limit for contributions this year.

Emswiler said the TSP is a way to save and invest money for retirement on a tax-deferred basis. That is, contributions and earnings are not reported as income until they're withdrawn from the plan.

Triplett, who invests the maximum amount allowed into TSP, said he believes tax deferment is one of the best features of the program.

TSP is a government-run plan that has historically had good rates of return at a very low administrative cost. Triplett said he also likes the different investment options the program offers that "should meet everyone's risk tolerance."

The TSP funds are government securities G Fund; Standard and Poor's 500 common stock index C Fund; government and corporate bond index F Fund; international stock index I Fund; and Wilshire 4500 "small business" stock index S Fund. Only G Fund accounts are guaranteed by the government. All others are subject to market forces.

Military and civilian members who had traditional individual retirement accounts or employers' 401k accounts before they joined the federal service can maintain them if they want, "but you can transfer the accounts into the Thrift Savings Plan and then have just one account to manage," Emswiler said. This change took effect July 1, 2001. Visit the TSP Web site www.tsp.gov for full details and application forms.

He called TSP a "portable" savings program. "Even if you don't stay in the military for a career, your TSP account belongs to you," he said. "And if you do stay in the military for a career, then you'll have even more savings available for your retirement."

For more information about TSP or for personal financial counseling, call Triplett at 452-6422.



Staff Sgt. Sonny Cohrs

This isn't German weather

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM -- Tech. Sgt. Joel J. Zoucha, 320th Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight, records the current wet bulb-glob temperature reading at a forward-deployed location in Southwest Asia. The WBGT is used to advise work centers of the current heat condition so they can adjust their work-rest cycles and drink enough water to stay hydrated. The kit is an instrument for providing information on hot weather risks to the health of the troops. Since Zoucha arrived here from the 52nd Aeromedical Squadron at Spangdahlem Air Base he's seen temperatures as hot as 115 degrees.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

All fini-shed

Col. John Watkins, 52nd Fighter Wing vice commander, gives up while being hosed down after his fini flight May 7 at Spangdahlem Air Base. On hand to witness his last flight -- and dousing -- were his wife, Cathy, son, Bryce, and various wing members. Watkins, who's been at Spangdahlem AB since August 2000, leaves to become the 3rd Air Force vice commander at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. Third Air Force is one of two numbered Air Forces in Europe. It's responsible for all U.S. Air Force operations and support activities in Europe, north of the Alps, and in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Carnival

Continued from Page 1

spring carnival. Game and food booths open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

PTA organizers said their number one goal is to give the whole community a day of fun with BES before school ends for the year. The spring carnival is also an important fund-raiser for the PTA.

This past year the PTA funded recess equipment and visiting storytellers, among other items and events to enrich the children's education.

■Saturday -- The Bitburg Annex BX parking lot changes to a large flea market. The BX also holds a sidewalk sale, beer stein signing and free bicycle safety inspections.

■Sunday -- Starting at 1 p.m., the BX helps celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month by sponsoring the "Pacific Island Treasures" dance troupe and offering Asian food samples.

From 2-3 p.m., former Oakland Raider football star Howie Long will be at the BX. Barfield said the Fox television football analyst will be greeting Team Eifel members and signing autographs.



Two members of the 606th Air Control Squadron "deployed radar" site security stand guard after a "protestor" threw a suspicious package into their site.



Members at the "deployed radar" site respond when two members are taken down by a suspicious package that exploded.



Tech. Sgt. James Heffley, 606th ACS power production specialist, works in the "deployed radar" command post.



The red smoke grenade was used to simulate a chemical attack. Using the smoke grenade provides more realistic training during exercises.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Cindy York

Staff Sgt. Mike Lewis, 606th ACS NCOIC of disaster preparedness, is apprehended by Master Sgt. James Ross and another 606th member. The scenario, called "Crazy Lewis," was played out when Lewis "went psycho" in the integrated command and control command post. "The fog of war got to me. I decided to leave and I took someone with me. I did a knife kill and went out the door. We run those types of scenarios to make sure supervisors watch their troops to make sure they're doing OK," Lewis said.

606th

Continued from Page 1

With the 606th practically self-sufficient, they're used to handling nearly everything from their normal jobs to security to feeding themselves.

"We brought two services squadron members with us this time, but we'd normally bring enough MREs to sustain us for 21-days," said Chief Master Sgt. Paul McGeorge, 606th ACS maintenance superintendent. "Of course, we'd need re-supply, but we're pretty self-containing."

The 606th ACS, one of only two such squadrons in Europe, is made up of members from different career fields such as supply, computer maintenance, satellite communications and many others.

This is the second time the unit has deployed to Kemel. Dew said while it's great to get away to do training, they continually train here, too.

"We're training all the time. There's no standard day for us," Dew said. "Even though we're stationed in Europe, as one of only five active air control squadrons in the Air Force, we could be tasked to go anywhere in the world -- Southwest Asia, Pacific Air Forces or Europe."

While at Spangdahlem, the unit does a variety of things. Weekdays, they control Spangdahlem AB sorties. If a jet gets refueled, the 606th directs the operation.

Though the 606th isn't graded in evaluations at the same time, or in the same as the wing, the unit routinely participates in the exercises the wing holds -- in one way or another.

"We set up camouflage, provide bus drivers" said Dew. "We do the generation and recall portion and we also control the air during the Phase II exercises."

Additionally, the squadron holds what they call "DIRT, or Deployment Initial Response Training, School" about once every 45 days. New unit members spend two weeks -- one in the classroom, one in the field -- training on weapons and playing war. Most of all, they get dirty; much like this recent trip to Kemel.

"Out here we live and work in the mud, but there are no bad attitudes. Most (people) get gung-ho," Dew said. "Good attitudes and loving what we do just makes these kinds of deployments a lot of fun." (Master Sgt. Darrell Brewer contributed to this story.)



Kelly Sisk, Bitburg Elementary School gifted and talented teacher, offers fourth-grader Joseph Saahene writing advice on his American bald eagle report. According to Joseph, Sisk inspires learning by exposing students to a wide variety of activities, such as drama and student council leadership.

Students share what Eifel 'star' teachers s

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Fourth-grader Hannah Lynch carefully drew the outline of an Inuit-style walrus, but it just didn't seem right to simply color it gray. The walrus' unorthodox shape called for something different. Her art teacher Ann Sherwood, suggested Hannah use her favorite color – a bit of her own soul to give the artwork "life." The suggestion gave the fourth-grader a sense of freedom and relief – she not only finished the project on time, but also with satisfaction.

From elementary up to high school level, students agree that "star" teachers are understanding, inspire creativity and learning, and use humor to keep things interesting.

However, the kind of understanding and methods these teachers use to inspire learning vary – as does their sense of humor.

As Georgia Smithee explained, the perfect teacher "explains the work rather than just giving it out." The Spangdahlem Middle School sixth-grader said Pete Goetz is a good example of such a teacher.

"He's funny, nice and he shows he cares. He spends enough time on a subject for you to understand the assignment," she said.

Bitburg high-schooler, Braden Blake, agrees and likes mathematics teacher Mike Kennedy's "leave-no-one-behind" approach.

"He sticks with a subject until everyone gets it," he said. "He also knows how to explain it so we understand what he's teaching."



First-graders swarm Margaret Loffelman, Spangdahlem Elementary School teacher, for advice on their tree essays. Andrew Kolva, left, waits for his turn as Loffelman helps Devon Hornberger. Spangdahlem Air Base celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week May 6-11.

Despite students' groans, star teachers also know students need a push once in while to excel, said Katie Lange, Spangdahlem Elementary School fourth-grader.

"Mr. (Tom) Hepler gets us to do all sorts of projects we might not want to do at first, but turn out to be really fun, such as when he had us write essays about our families," said Lange.

Noemi Fant is another SES teacher students find tough, but in a good way.

"She expects a lot of us, such as making us write in complete sentences, but our papers are better because of it," said fourth-grader Hannah Lynch.

Students also like it when they can lean on teachers for personal guidance, said SMS eighth-grader B.J. Phillips.

"Special teachers also help and guide you as a teacher and a friend," he said. "All my teachers are like that, but some are better at it than others.

Some teachers are better with helping you get over problems with parents and friends. Others are better at helping you with your schoolwork."

According to SES third-grader Danny Mertzluft, star teachers also inspire learning by using creative teaching methods and hands-on activities. Fourth-grade teachers Judi Harvin, Lisa Jakobs and second-grade teacher Cynthia Geissinger often have their students do activities, making learning fun, rather than "just reading from a textbook," Mertzluft said. One of his favorite activities was to make a toy car powered only by wind.

Joseph Saahene said he also prefers learning by activity. Currently, the Bitburg Elementary School fourth-grader is learning how electricity works by lighting light bulbs using wires and a battery in Kari Simes' class.

"It's a lot more fun than reading

makes shine

about electricity," he said.

Humor goes a long way in keeping students' interest, according to Alexys Maxwell. It can be subtle or laugh-out-loud funny, it doesn't matter, said the Bitburg high-schooler. The purpose is to alleviate negative stress and make class time enjoyable.

"Mr. (Mike) Kennedy is one of the best teachers we have here," she said. "He has a great sense of humor and does the craziest things to keep our attention. For instance, if his chalk breaks while he's writing on the board, watch out, because he just tosses it out the door and reaches for another."

Keeping a first-grader's interest — a development stage known for short attention spans — can be challenging, but teachers such as Marilyn Hawks do a good job, according to Bitburg Elementary School first-grader Alyx Doggett. Hawks appeals to her students' love of animals and other living creatures.

"She keeps bugs in class and lets us hold the baby guinea pig," she said. "I like to learn about the animals because it's fun."

A combination of understanding what inspires students in their various stages of development and of the challenges they're facing in each stage is part of the learning puzzle, but that's not all, say local students. Star teachers also fire the imagination and continually keep things interesting by using humor and hands-on activities. According to Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex students, many teachers here qualify for the honor roll.



Spangdahlem Elementary School third-grade teachers, Judi Harvin, left, and Lisa Jakobs, help students "warm up their brains" before a grammar lesson by asking students trivia questions. Harvin and Jakobs "team teach," a method of combining classes to teach lessons.

Teachers rate DODDS-E above average

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Spitballs and missed homework assignments — despite the ageless setbacks, Eifel-region school instructors still say teaching overseas is a sweet assignment.

What makes it worth its weight in chalk (or dry-erase markers) is living in a tight-knit community and working in a motivated educational system, which supports creative teaching methods and student-help programs.

"Here you're not just with the school, you're also part of the community," said Spangdahlem Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Judi Harvin. "I taught three years in the states and when school was over, I went home. I didn't live in the community I worked in. Here, when I go places, I see my students and I feel part of the family."

Working in military communities has unique challenges. DODDS teachers must deal with an ever-changing pool of program volunteers because of frequent PCS moves and help students cope with family-member deployments. However, the benefits outway the obstacles, said Thomas Sisk, Bitburg Elementary School talented and gifted teacher. Military families provide students disciplined role models and higher expectations.

"There's also more opportunities for students to

participate in extra-curricular activities, such as sports and the drama club. I think it's primarily because so many students live close to the schools," said the 12-year Department of Defense Dependent Schools instructor.

Willingness to share resources and ideas is important when brainstorming ways of doing things better, said Sue Kerns, Eifel elementary schools educational technologist. Meeting people worldwide who share ideas that worked well at their child's past school opens the mind to possibilities never thought of before, she explained.

"After working in the same school district for years, teachers sometimes get locked into doing things the same way it has always been done," said the 22-year DODDS veteran. "It also helps for overseas teachers to have a sense of adventure and willingness to try something new for the student's benefit."

The excitement of trying new teaching concepts with community support sparks teachers' creative side, inspiring high motivation, said Sisk. Like electricity, the teachers' motivation charges students to reach goals they've set for themselves.

The one activity DODDS teachers can do that stateside instructors can't is to take students on field trips throughout Europe. Instructors here try to take

advantage of this unique learning experience as often as possible, said Kerns.

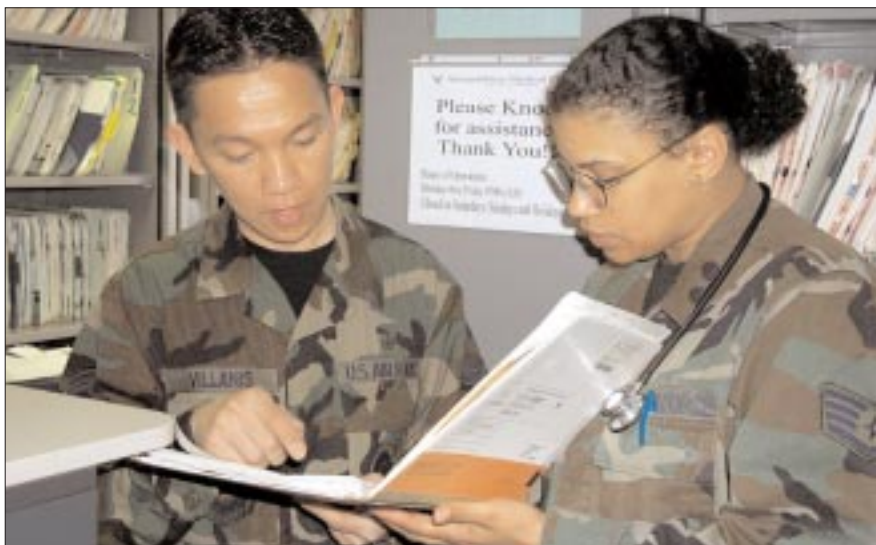
"Students learn about languages and customs that are different from their own," she said. "Younger students can visit German bakeries, markets and museums to learn more about life in Europe."

According to Harvin, elementary-school level field trips are difficult, but beneficial.

A few years ago, she took her fourth-grade class to the Köln chocolate museum and cathedral. At the time, she was teaching her class how simple mechanical devices work. Harvin was able to point out to the students how medieval workers moved huge concrete blocks and ornamentation using pulley systems.

As current civilian school trends sway between focusing on teaching basic academics to curtailing school violence, local DODDS teachers speak of how much they enjoy the benefits of working in the military community.

"When I meet people from around the world and hear about the challenges in other schools, I realize how fortunate I am to be working in a community where children receive proper nutrition and health care, and the parents are interested and involved in their children's lives," said Kerns.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Above: Staff Sgt. Karla Jeremiah-Griffith, 52nd MDOS medical technician, reviews a patient's chart with Senior Airman Rafael Villanis, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron administrative technician, to ensure all the information has been properly documented. Left: Capt. Patricia John, Bitburg Annex hospital labor and delivery nurse, listens to a fellow nurse's patient concerns as she charts an obstetrics patient's fetal non-stress test, which monitors a baby's heart rate to check its health.

Nurses take patient health to heart

Clinic caregivers serve community from life's beginning to end

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Nurses – they give health advice, checkups, healing and hold hands with the dying. Why do they endure the stress of comforting a dying retiree or deal with angry patients who are lashing out because they're in pain?

"I love what I do," confessed Capt. Patricia John, Bitburg Annex hospital clinical nurse.

In the medical clinic, nurses and medical technicians spend time providing preventive care, health maintenance, healing illnesses and wounds, and hospice care.

Preventive medicine

One of the services "med techs" provide here (whose responsibilities equal those of civilian licensed-practical nurses) is to teach people ways to improve or maintain good health practices through counseling. Need is often determined through Personal Health Assessments, said Staff Sgt. Juan Cortez, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron medical technician. Just like any other skill, taking care of one's self is learned and sometimes unhealthy habits, such as eating a high-fat diet, must be altered to prevent heart disease and other ailments, Cortez explained. The three most common health interventions offer nutritional and personal fitness and stress management advice.

Health maintenance

Preventive medicine isn't the only answer to promoting good health. Clinic caregivers such as Staff Sgt. Maria McConnell, 52nd MDOS obstetrics and gynecological clinic medical technician, helps expecting mothers maintain good health by charting blood pressure and other health information. McConnell said for as long as she can remember, she has wanted to work in the medical field. As a little girl, she'd play "doctor," using a toy stethoscope. However, over the years she's come to terms that caring for patients isn't all fun and games, she confessed.

"It's really important, I think, to be a people person," McConnell said. "Sometimes when patients walk into the clinic they're frustrated and give you a hard time. As a professional, you have to look beyond the person's frustration and listen closely to determine the real issue."



Capt. Tina Allen, Bitburg Annex hospital labor and delivery nurse, checks Barbara Holland's blood pressure. Holland had recently given birth to a boy in the hospital obstetrics ward. Allen wants her patient's blood pressure to stay at about 140/85 to ensure good post-partum recovery.

Healing

In the medical world, healing illnesses and wounds is a full-time job and the primary reason people go to the clinic. Nurses and doctors work as a team to help people regain their health.

"We check on patients, write orders and speak with nurses about the plan for the day, but nurses administer medication, provide patient care and take care of surgical wounds," said Maj. (Dr.) Jaye Adams, 52nd MDOS OB/GYN physician. "They're our eyes and ears because we're so busy in the clinic. We trust them to let us know what the patients need."

Hospice care

Along with promoting healthy living, nurses must also care for the dying, even thousands of miles away from the nearest battlefield. Nurses do what they can to comfort patients facing little chance of recovery and military veterans who have come to life's end. As recently as April, nurses there provided hospice care for two retirees.

"It's always difficult whether you know the patients or not, but with some it's especially tough," said 2nd Lt. Naomi Vestel, Bitburg Annex hospital clinical nurse.

Military training

In addition to daily challenges, military nurses also have to train and practice for the realities of war.

"We know how to put up tents and deliver babies," joked Vestel, but such a situation may be a reality in a contingency.

Nurses learn how to care for patients in every environment, even while wearing individual protective equipment in the case of a chemical warfare attack.

"Inserting an intravenous needle can be tricky even for the most experienced nurse," Vestel said, "but trying to hold the needle steady and applying just the right amount of pressure with bulky, black rubber chemical warfare protective gloves takes practice and some talent."

Bitburg Annex hospital also has a contingency readiness plan should disaster strike. The plan expands the 16-bed facility to accommodate 60.

"The rooms would be filled with beds and the halls would be lined with gurneys and cots," Vestel explained.

Nurses would also work in four teams to triage the ill and wounded and the job of providing care would be nonstop, Vestel said. Emphasis is put on treating and returning able-bodied airmen to work so they can help with the mission.

A minimal team would care for minor cuts and bruises; an immediate care team would care for serious injuries; a delay team would work with patients whose care can wait; and an expectant team would comfort the dying.

The stress that comes with the job can take a physical and mental toll on medical caregivers. According to Vestel, nurses often have to rely on each other for encouragement. Without doing so, it's easy to lose sight of the "big picture."

John said her secret to maintaining a healthy outlook, even when things in the clinic look grim, comes in three parts:

"You've gotta love the job. Remember things always look brighter the next day. And, accept – and at times lean on – the loving support of your family," she said.

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

Community Bank hours

Because of holidays, the Spangdahlem Air Base and Bitburg Annex Community Banks will be closed Monday and May 30.

Home schooling

The 2002 Defense Appropriations Act directed the Department of Defense Educational Activity to allow home schooled children to participate in Department of Defense Dependents Schools high school extra-curricular activities with no requirement to attend DODDS classes.

Prior to this, for home school students to participate in interscholastic activities, they were required to attend DODDS for at least a half day.

Although DODEA is still in the final stages of coordination, the DODEA director has directed DODDS to proceed with a modified implementation. Students who want to participate in interscholastic sports or other interscholastic activities may request to participate at

Bitburg High School. The high school will forward the request to DODDS headquarters to be reviewed for eligibility.

Requests should address all aspects of the activity: school, district and league eligibility requirements, as well as verification of sponsor orders and ID card. Participating students will also be required to register with Bitburg High School for accountability and liability reasons.

Home schoolers using or receiving auxiliary services must meet the same eligibility requirements applicable to students enrolled in DODDS who use or receive the same auxiliary services. These eligibility requirements may include, but are not limited to, age, maintaining scholastic eligibility, providing documentation of current immunizations, physical exam and proof of insurance coverage, and signing a standards of conduct form and Internet access agreement.

Smart card request

People who receive items from the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (Provisional) should complete the

Standard Asset Tracking System Smart Card request.

The smart card takes the place of signed documentation when property is issued. Not having a smart card with the proper authorizations will prevent people from receiving property. For more information on where to find the request form or the program, call 452-6084.

Local American Legion

The Post 20 American Legion re-opened in Speicher at the Zum Flockenberg.

People can enjoy a variety of activities, including darts. The kitchen will open soon. People can do volunteer work with local orphans and base functions through the American Legion.

It is open Tuesday through Thursday from 4-11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sunday 4-10 p.m.

For more information, call Larry Barnwell at 0172-6416122, Gene Lee at 452-5654 or Mike Gormiller at 0160-92592427.



Community Mailbox

School news

Bitburg elementary

■ A spring carnival takes place Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. School officials seek volunteers. Call Liliana Gonzales at 06561-670573 or e-mail lilicantravel@yahoo.com to register.

■ The drama club presents, "Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow," Tuesday at 9 a.m., Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Thursday at 1 p.m.

Bitburg middle

■ An anti-drug carnival takes place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in front of the school. Entertainment includes a dunking booth, games with prizes and emergency vehicle displays.

■ The Eifel Homeschoolers new and used curriculum fair takes place May 20 from 6-8 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Middle School cafeteria. Call 06565-942675.

Wanted: Western wear

ACT Eifel needs donated or loaned Western-style shirts, skirts, boots and hats for its upcoming production of, "Annie Get Your Gun."

Call Harmony Martin at 06562-931689 or Kim Marshall at 06580-913657.

Shopping in Poland

A shopping trip to Poland takes place June 14-16. Cost is \$95 per double seat. Reservation and payment deadline is June 1. Call 06561-944280 or 06561-604576 to reserve seats.

Pet care

The following pet care services take place at the Oberweis Pet Spa. Call 452-9362 for details.

■ Walk-in shot clinic, June 1 noon to 4 p.m.

■ Grooming special, spaniel shaves cost \$30 throughout June.

Eifel Wanderers

The walking group meets June 5 at 7 p.m. in Zum Stein Gasthaus in Metterich. People interested in volksmarching information are encouraged to attend. The group's next march takes place May 24-27 in Copenhagen, Denmark and in Sweden. Cost is \$140 for adults, \$90 for children. Another march takes place June 8-9 in Malberg. Call Theresa Stevens at 06569-963184 for details.

Beer stein signing

The Spangdahlem Air Base main exchange beer stein signing takes place 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 31. Beer steins must be purchased at the store to qualify. Raffles for free gifts also take place throughout the day.

■ The annual B-17C Memorial in Australia takes place June 2. The event honors 40 American servicemen who died



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey

Light it up

David Rust, 52nd Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation service representative, returns a tent heater to a shop storage rack. Camping equipment, bikes and canoes are among the shop's most popular spring and summer rental items. Tents rent for \$8 and less daily, adult bikes rent for about \$8 and canoes for \$15.

there June 14, 1943. Call Colin Benson at 61-07-4957-7951 or e-mail c.benson@sri.org.au or valiant@easynet.au for details.

■ Guam Liberation Day celebrations take place July 20 in Tier Park in Siegelbach, near Ramstein Air Base. Call Joe Quitugua at 01708-919735 or e-mail quituguaj@cmtymail.26asg.army.mil for details.

Travel guide

Panther Paws 2001-2002, a travel guide authored and sponsored by the 81st Fighter Squadron Spouses Club, is now available at local exchange stores for \$10.

Life skills news

■ A diabetic support group meets May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex hospital conference room. Call Capt. Raul Flores at 452-8225 for more information.

■ The Eifel community cancer support group meets June 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Mom's Restaurant in Spangdahlem. Call Capt. Michelle Ambrose at 452-8238 to reserve seats or for details.

■ Helping Hands, a support group for children with special needs, meets June 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base youth center. Dinner and childcare is provided. Call 452-8238 for more information.

Historical sightseeing

The German-American Friendship Club sponsors a World War II historical walking tour May 25. Sights include visiting a bunker and the Siegfried Line museum in Irrel, and the American and German soldiers cemetery in Luxembourg. Transportation departs the Speicher Rathaus at noon and returns at 6 p.m. Call Gisela Traut at 06562-2464 to reserve seats or for details.

Thrift shop

Throughout May and June, Penny Lane Thrift Shop opens each Tuesday and

Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and each first and third Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Red Cross news

The following classes take place in the American Red Cross office in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9440 or 452-9241 for more information.

■ Babysitter training, June 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Register by Monday. Cost is \$25.

■ Two-day super-sitter training, June 1 and 8 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register by Monday. Cost is \$45.

Single airmen's dinner

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses Group-sponsored single airman's dinner takes place Thursday from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Spangdahlem Air Base Chapel.

Single members and civilian employees, regardless of rank, are encouraged to attend.

Job fair

The family support center sponsors a job fair May 29 from 2-5 p.m. in the Spang Club. Call 452-9491 for details.

Family support center news

The following take place in Spangdahlem Air Base building 307. Call 452-6422 to register or for more information.

■ Pre-separation consultation, Monday and May 27 from 9-10:30 a.m.

■ Pre-deployment briefing for active-duty members and spouses, May 28 from 8-9 a.m.

■ Home-buying seminar, May 28 from 6-8 p.m.

■ Key spouse meeting, May 29 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

■ Mutual funds, May 29 from 6-8 p.m.

The following take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9491 to register or for more information.

■ Creative Critters for children ages 18

months to 3 years old, each Monday 10-11 a.m. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

■ Veterans Administration representative visit, Tuesday 10 a.m. to noon.

■ Cooking club, Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

DeCA-Europe gift cards

European commissaries now offer gift cards in \$25 and \$100 denominations. Customers can purchase cards at the store customer service desk. Only authorized shoppers may redeem certificates at the store where it was purchased. Call 452-9211 for more information.

Airmen's Attic

The Family Support Center Airmen's Attic opens Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Spangdahlem Air Base and the Bitburg Annex. Donations are accepted only during operating hours. Call 452-6422 for details.

Coffee Mill

The Spangdahlem Air Base Singles' Coffee Mill opens each Friday 7-11 p.m. in building 139. Activities include card tournaments, dart games, movies and more. Free hot and cold beverages are provided.

Education news

■ Earn up to 30 semester hours toward an associates degree through the College Level Examination Program. Testing is free for active-duty members and at a special rate for military family members.

Also, the DANTES External Degree program offers associate's through master's degrees through correspondence learning. Review the DANTES catalog on the program Web site at <http://voled.doded.mil/dantes/dl/>.

■ First-term airmen who enlisted May 5, 2000, or after may qualify for the College Loan Repayment program.

Call the base education office at 452-6063 or visit the office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 131 for more information.

Preschool playgroups

■ MOPS, a chapel-sponsored playgroup for babies and children up to 5 years old, meets the second and fourth Thursday monthly from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 139. E-mail spangmops@yahoo.com for details.

■ Bunny club playgroup meets each Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon in the Bitburg Annex lodging facility playground. Call Michele Linnen at 452-3130 for details.

■ Call Lynn Jackson at 452-8279 for time and dates for a Spangdahlem AB playgroup for toddlers and children up to 5 years old.

Reunions and memorials

■ The Air Commando Association annual reunion takes place Oct. 10-13 at Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Call 850-581-0099, e-mail aircommando@aol.com or visit the organization's Webpage at <http://home.earthlink.net/~aircommando1/> for details.

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Col. Greg Ihde.....Commander
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.



Contents of the *Eifel Times* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office.

People may submit articles for publication in the *Eifel Times* to the public affairs office, building 23. **Deadline for submission is 10 days prior to desired publication date** and noon Mondays for weekend sports. Submission of articles by deadline does not guarantee publication. All articles are considered for publication. Time and space constraints, as well as style, dictate article allocation. The *Eifel Times* staff edits all articles prior to publication.

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The *Eifel Times* staff can be reached at 452-5244. The e-mail address is publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil. The *Eifel Times* is published by Paulinus-Druckerei GmbH, Saarbrücken, Germany, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government.

Photos are property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise noted. The Rumor Control Hotline is 452-6833.



Col. Greg Ihde

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the *Eifel Times* and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■ DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PA, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■ To public affairs in building 23.

■ Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days since last DUI:

As of Thursday

18

You have a choice.
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
at 452-2233.

Viewpoint

May 17, 2002

Page 11

Value of PME

By Lt. Col. Peter S. H. Ellis
52nd Mission Support Squadron commander

There are a few things important about the value of professional military education in meeting the extraordinary challenges we face today.

There are those who criticized our new Air Force motto "No One Comes Close" - saying it's devious to our sister services, and arrogant to our allied and other air forces around the world. Well, to this New York City kid, I don't think it's either. It's just the plain simple truth.

But WHY is it the truth? Why is our Air Force second to none? It's simple really - it's our NCO corps that makes us second to none - you are truly the backbone of the Air Force.

Think about it for a minute, air forces of other countries would likely be appalled, or might even court-martial you for the very independence and initiative we expect from you every day.

So, what is it exactly that makes our NCO corps the best in the world? At a practical, get-it-done level, I believe it's training that makes our NCO corps the best. More than any other country anywhere, we are willing to risk the blood of our pilots and crews to train them like we're going to fight - and fight and win we do!

In PME, we put our money where our mouth is by providing world-class instructors, facilities and curriculums that teach our airmen how to grow as leaders and give them the opportunity to reflect on our cultural values. And it's our airman leadership school that prepares our young airmen to join the ranks of non-commissioned officers.

So how does PME do that? I've been blessed over the past 24 years to attend six different levels of PME in residence, both as an NCO and as an officer. If I had to boil all the good things PME does for you into just a few thoughts, I'd point to three things: emphasizing the importance of learning for life, inculcating students with our core values and instilling the desire to train to your personal best.

First, it's probably pretty obvious that things can change ... and they can change radically and quickly. Technology is one example. I

remember as an airman, sitting at a machine as large as my desk now, punching holes in 80-column holerith cards. I then carried stacks of them to the data automators to make the port calls that would get folks like you over here to Europe. Now, I can sit at a computer on my credenza and hit "enter," and send a message anywhere in the world.

I could not have imagined that 24 years ago - and I can hardly imagine what the next 24 years will bring.

Additionally, the threats we face can change radically and quickly, too. Who could have imagined the carnage of trench warfare in World War I where several countries literally lost an entire generation of men? Or the lightning speed of the "blitzkrieg" in World War II that sought to achieve world domination, and almost did?

Now thrust on us in the blink of an eye on Sept. 11 is a new, cowardly terrorist threat which sole focus seems to be the wholesale slaughter of innocent men, women and children.

So how can we cope with such radical change and succeed? Well, I believe PME gives us the opportunity to exercise our minds to keep them young and flexible so we can quickly assimilate what's happening around us ... and PME also teaches us a wide variety of leadership tools that we can choose from in responding to new and radical threats. In short, PME promotes learning for life, and our air force men and women do that better than anyone, anywhere.

The second major contribution PME brings to the fight is a focus on values. As much as some things might change - other things ... like our core values - never will. I doubt anyone would argue that former Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. Ronald Fogleman captured lightning in a bottle when he succinctly expressed our core values: integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. But I would share with you that General Fogleman did not invent our core values. To the contrary, I believe those same core values have guided our airmen from the very beginning.

I believe PME provides a great service to our country by instilling our airmen with these values, and by giving them a setting that permits time to reflect on what they mean to them personally. I believe it's only through thinking about the things that are truly important, and by internalizing them, that our moral compass can point to due north, and that's what enables us to pick the right tool to use in a crisis.

The third thing I believe PME brings to the fight is our Air Force tradition of giving your very best effort, day in and day out. Our airmen leadership school not only instills that tradition, it demands it.

I want to share with you a message and challenge I give to every new First Term Airmen Center class. I tell them if they're only training to the standard, they're doing it wrong, because training to the standard only leaves you teetering on the brink of failure.

My charge to them, and to all of you is to always train to your personal best in every thing you do - both personally and professionally. If you do, you will crush the standard. If you do, you will be a better airman, a better citizen and a better person for it. If you do, no one will ever come close.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 represent the most heinous attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor. And now, just like then, ordinary Americans like us had their lives changed forever ... and now, just like then, they answered the call. And now, just like then, it will take professional training, a commitment to learning, a value-compass pointed to due north, and the desire to always give your all, to prevail over the long-haul.

So that's my story and I'm sticking to it. PME schools are the building blocks of bone in the backbone of the Air Force. They instill the desire to learn for life, to internalize bedrock values and to always strive for your personal best. They are the reason our NCO corps is second to none ... they are the reason no one will ever come close ... and that is why we will continue to fight and win!

Letter to the Editor

Where did courtesy go?

Staff Sgt. Greg Barnes
81st Fighter Squadron workgroup manager

"Hello," "How are you?" or "What's up?"

How many times have you greeted people with one of these greetings and not gotten a response back? How many times has someone greeted you and you didn't respond back? I've noticed that a lot of people here at Spangdahlem have forgotten common courtesy.

I grew up in the suburb of a large city and not in a small-town environment where people commonly think manners and courtesy are learned. My parents taught me that I should be courteous to everyone and I'm still living by that rule to this day.

We're all a big family here, so why can't you say one of those greetings to everybody or respond back when spoken to?

When a person in your family greets you, do you greet them back? Are you the first person to greet a member of your family?

Every time I walk past someone, I always greet him or her with a "Hello," "How are you?" or "What's up?" Approximately half of those people don't say anything, but rather just walk on by. It only takes a few seconds to extend a greeting in return.

Anybody can show this kind of courtesy and one of the best places is driving through the base gates. When a security forces member checks your ID, say "Hi," "How are you?" or "What's up?"

You can make a great impression and make someone feel special by extending a nice greeting that could be as short as just a couple of words. By doing so, we can make Spangdahlem Air Base and the Eifel-region a place of courtesy.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. More movie information is available at www.aafes.com/europe/eur-mov/snop.htm.

Bitburg Castle

Today

John Q (PG-13)
Starring Denzel Washington. When John Q. Archibald's son Michael, falls seriously ill and needs an emergency heart transplant operation John Q. can't afford, he vows to do whatever it takes to keep his son alive. (Violence, language and thematic elements.)

Saturday

The Rookie (G)

Starring Dennis Quaid and Rachel Griffiths. The true story of high school science teacher and baseball coach Jim Morris. Morris makes a deal with his team: if they make the playoffs, he'll try out for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays pitching position. To his surprise, he makes the team, fulfilling his lifelong dream at the age of 35 and becomes the oldest major league rookie in 30 years.

Sunday

The Rookie

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

John Q

Thursday

The Rookie

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

High Crimes (PG-13)

Starring Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman. A Harvard Law School professor is forced to defend her husband in military court after the Army declares him a deserter and charges him with participating in a mass killing in El Salvador. (Violence, sexual content and language.)

Dragonfly (PG-13, 10 p.m.)

Starring Kevin Costner and Joe Morton. Dr. Darrow is a respected expert, but his professional knowledge provides little comfort when tragedy claims the life of his wife. Six months after her death, Emily's body hasn't been recovered and Joe has shut down. Sister Madeleine, a Catholic nun who has studied near-death experiences, understands that Joe and Emily may have unfinished business and that neither of them will rest until it is resolved. (Thematic material and mild sensuality.)

Saturday

Return to Neverland (G, 1 p.m.)

Animated voices of Corey Burton and Jeff Bennett. World War II is raging and has come to the heart of London. Wendy tries to comfort her young ones with stories of her experiences in Neverland, although her daughter Jane remains a disbeliever. However, Captain Hook in his flying ship kidnaps Jane from their London home and whisks off to Neverland. Hook plans to use Jane as bait to capture Peter Pan. But Peter rescues Jane from the villain's clutches and a rollicking adventure is underway.

Crossroads (PG-13)

Starring Britney Spears and Anson Mount. Lucy, Kit and Mimi, after eight years apart, re-discover their friendship on a cross-country trip. With barely a plan, practically no money but plenty of dreams, the girls catch a lift with Mimi's handsome and mysterious friend Ben in his 1973 Buick convertible. Along the way they not only gather experiences that will change their lives forever, but they also discover how important it is to hold on to their heart's desires. (Sexual content and teen drinking.)

High Crimes (10 p.m.)

Sunday

Return to Neverland (1 and 4 p.m.)

Crossroads

Monday

Dragonfly

Tuesday

High Crime

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Trier museum reveals 'art of play' through historic dolls, other toys

Story and photos by Maj. Francisco G. Hamm

Public Affairs Individual Mobilization Augmentee

A visit to the Trier Spielzeug or Toy Museum is like transporting yourself back in time, bypassing your own childhood and landing into a world of fantasy and dreams.

The youngest member of the impressive family of Trier museums, the Toy Museum provides a fascinating and impressive perspective into the world of toys, with more than 5,000 exhibits on display ranging from trains, planes and automobiles to dolls, teddy bears and puppets.

With three floors to choose from, the museum is well organized. Although all the placards are in German, each individual toy speaks volumes to visitors, in terms of the international childhood pastime - the art of play.

The first floor is made of exhibitions including stuffed animals and dolls. The world of miniature toys is displayed on the second floor and the third floor has the world of dolls.

Stemming from a passion for toys growing up, owner Rolf Scheuich started collecting during the 1950s, specializing in mechanical toys and trains. His wife, Heidi, started collecting dolls. After looking at other toy museums to get ideas, they finally opened their own museum in May 1989.

Most of the antique toys displayed reveal much about the social and cultural trends of the times and were made from everyday materials. For example, the Romans, the



People can see dolls on each floor of the Trier Spielzeug.

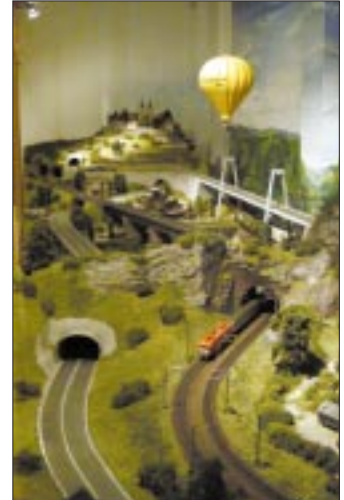
Greeks and the Egyptians all used clay to build their toys while the Germans took advantage of their rich forests and therefore built their toys out of wood.

One of the traditional toys that embodies the passion passed from fathers to sons, is the collection of trains that commemorate the first German train ride in 1835 from Nuernberg to Fuerth.

The third floor comes alive with the sights and sounds of trains zooming through miniature towns and on display tracing the history of locomotives.

The museum can be found in the heart of the pedestrian zone on Nagelstrasse 4-5 and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April through October.

The museum's ruhetag is on Mondays, when they are closed. Entry into the museum costs: adults, 4 euros; Adolescent (ages 11-18), 2 euros; children (ages 4-11) 1.50 euros; family (includes two adults and maximum of five children) 10 euros. The museum also has



One of more popular exhibits is of the train display. The Trier Toy Museum opened in May 1989.

special group prices.

For more information, call the museum at 0651-75850 or visit their Web site at www.spielzeugmuseum-trier.de.

No matter what age, young and old, this playful museum welcomes all visitors and allows everyone's childhood reflections to roam freely and admire the world of wonderful toys.



Out and about



(Note: Events are subject to change at short notice. To double-check on an event prior to attending, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. Tourist office agents, who usually speak English, can say whether an event was canceled.)

■Lieser, a town located along the Mosel River, sponsors a castle festival Saturday through Monday.

■Visit the artists of Circus Krone through Monday at the Luxembourg city Schoberness platz. Shows are Monday at 3:30 and 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 and 7 p.m. For details or tickets, call the circus cashier at 00352-222809. The phone number is often busy and people may have to try several times to get through to the cashier.

■Kulturwerk Weissenseifen is the theme for a series of art exhibitions and events taking

place May 30 through June 2 at the Weissenseifen art quarters. The event includes musical performances, displays, demonstrations by painters, basket makers, pottery makers, metal art workers and more. An artist will present children's books. There will also be open singing performances and art workshops to attend. For more information about the event or to sign up for a workshop, call 06594-18161 or 883.

■Participate in the Kroev midnight run at 11:40 p.m. Saturday. For details or to register, call 06541-1400 or e-mail to engels.manfred.kroev@t-online.de.

■Supertramp will be in concert at 8 p.m. May 27 at the Luxembourg-City Kockelscheuer ice sports hall. For more information or for tickets, call the LuxEvents organizers at 0352-507750 or the ticket hot line 0180-517 0 517.

■Trier hosts the annual Europa folks festival through Monday at the Trier Moselauen fairgrounds. The event features amusement rides, food and entertainment.

■Plan to attend the Happy Mosel bicycling event May 26 along the Mosel River.

■Reserve your ticket now to Trier's 2002 antiquity festival June 26 through July 19 at the "Kaiserthermen" Roman bath in Trier. This year's event features "Norma," "Orpheus in the Underworld" and "Elektra," a play performed by the Spanish ensemble "Teatro Atalaya." Call 06517-181818 for details.

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Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in May and June. Most prices differ for children and adult tickets. People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activity Center at

452-6567 or the Bitburg Annex ITT at 06561-945937 for details.

■Ikea and Birkenstock shopping, May 27, \$20 and \$25.

■Strasbourg, June 1, \$29 and \$39.

■Heidelberg city and castle, fireworks and castle illumination, June 1, \$35 and \$45.

■Disneyland Paris Express, June 1, \$75 and \$85.

■Castles of the Eifel, June 2, \$30 and \$35.

■Paris Express, June 8, \$75 and \$89.

■Amsterdam and Zaanse Schans, June 8, \$65 and \$70.

■Mosel dinner cruise and wine tasting, June 8, \$49.

■Six Flags in Belgium and indoor water park, June 9, \$49 and \$54.

■Schevingen at the North Sea, June 14-16, \$139 and \$219.

■London Express, June 14-15, \$89 and \$99.